

Academic Policy Council
April 13, 2018
Mahar 467

Minutes DRAFT

Present: Eve Clark, Jason Zenor, Rameen Mohammadi, Dan Truong, Jean Chambers, Robert Taglia, Mary McCune

Meeting called to order at 3:06

I. Approval of the agenda.

Chambers moved, Zenor seconded. Approved.

II. Approval of April 6, 2018 minutes

Chambers approved with minor changes, Zenor seconded. Approved.

III. Chair's Report

The chair did not have much to report. The major discussion at FAEB has been regarding the administrative turn-over in CLAS and the search for an Interim Dean. There has been some discussion of making a "road map" of how program changes go through the approval process since many problems arise when people do not know or do not understand the process. Lisa Glidden is hoping some work will be done on this over the summer. Chambers and others felt that information on the APC website that provides an outline of the process would be helpful as would examples of successful proposals and clarification of the roles of various councils.

Mohammadi announced that an audio production major is in the works.

IV. Old Business

A) Honors Program: Visit Casey Raymond and Chris LaLonde about the Honors Program

Fettes was not in attendance but sent her views via email that the proposal seems to amount to a weakening of the Honors Program. She wanted to ensure that this issue was addressed and that the justifications for the proposed changes were clear. Discussion ensued regarding the role of APC in evaluating the academic content of programs, whether the Honors Program was different in this regard than an academic department, and whether practical matters should drive programmatic changes.

Casey Raymond, Director, and Chris LaLonde, Assistant Director of the Honors Program attended the meeting to discuss the proposed changes to the program and to address the opposition of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures (MLL).

Raymond provided background for what drove these proposed changes. He and the previous Director, Gwen Kay, talked about changing the program last year. Kay is now President of Faculty Senate. In January Raymond and LaLonde met with past directors of the Honors Program to inquire about the history of the programs, its original aims and goals, and changes that had occurred over the years. They shared the proposed changes with the former Directors and they were supportive. One felt that it was appropriate to streamline the program and to make the HON courses the centerpiece, noting that the non-HON courses were in the program in order to fulfill the General Education requirements (GE). There are four areas in the program that fulfill SUNY and Oswego GE which are not represented by any HON courses (MLL, Natural Sciences, Math and World Awareness).

Clark asked what the rationale was for taking out credits in the GE categories not covered by HON. Raymond responded with the example of Math: currently students can take MAT 106 and 206 or MAT 159 or MAT 208 or MAT 210. Students in Early Childhood Education take eight credits of Math because it is required in their program. No Math students take MAT 159; this is a course for HON students. Students in the School of Business take MAT 208. Thus, some HON students take as little as 3 credits of Math and some take as much as eight credits because MAT 158 is required in various majors but is not included in the HON Program. In making these changes, they are trying to accommodate students so that they don't have to take more Math than is required in their major. The new requirement will align the HON Math requirement with the requirement for students' majors.

Regarding the Natural Sciences, Raymond explained that the original HON requirement stipulated that students take a lab. This put pressure on departments to offer enough seats. Another issue is that more students are coming in with AP credit for the GE in the Natural Sciences. The AP equivalent amounts to three credits in natural science. Yet there are no stand-alone lab courses offered at SUNY Oswego. The proposal will rectify this situation. If students did not take a lab course, they could, in the existing Honors Program, take two three-credit Natural Sciences courses. Concern, though, was expressed in the Honors Program that this allowed students to take three Natural Sciences (given the requirement to take HON 300) but that this was not an option for students in other disciplinary areas. The proposed changes align the Natural Sciences portion of the program with GE.

Zenor inquired as to the rationale regarding why some of the GE categories do not have a dedicated HON course. Raymond replied that he didn't ask the former directors that specific question. His understanding is that the HON courses developed from older courses and are now an established part of the program. Not having HON courses in each of the GE categories provides a certain level of

flexibility for students because of the limited number of HON courses that can be offered. (More required HON courses would lead to less flexibility for students). Raymond reminded Council members that HON students are also completing majors in their home departments and that HON has no dedicated instructors in the program. They need to staff the HON courses with faculty and adjuncts from academic departments across campus.

Raymond stated that the changes to HON are also aimed at allowing more students to remain in the program. When the program was founded, he said, the GE requirements required HON students to enroll in the highest-level introductory course in the GE area. This resulted in an HON program that enrolled a mere twenty students.

Clark asked about the change to the MLL requirement. Raymond responded that, in deciding on that change, they looked at their current student population's foreign language credits. The majority of students come in needing to take 6-9 credits in MLL in the current HON program since they only have three years of high school foreign language. He also stated that the HON program directors felt that MLL is outside the HON core mission which is to produce a well-rounded student in the liberal arts in courses that go "above and beyond" non-HON courses and that provide an understanding of the interactions between the disciplines. HON students must also complete an HON thesis. Zenor noted that the first goal is accomplished in the HON-prefix courses and the second by writing a thesis.

Clark wondered why MLL was the only discipline area where HON students do not go "above and beyond" non-HON students. Raymond replied that the students do not go "above and beyond" in the World Awareness category, that some, but not all, might do so in Math, and that none will in MLL under the new proposal. Discussion ensued regarding the various GE categories and their relation to the HON program. Raymond informed the Council that a review of other SUNY Honors programs revealed that Oswego is the only one that goes beyond the GE MLL requirement. This change to the foreign language requirement in SUNY Honors programs has been occurring over the past ten years. He also noted that incoming students do ask about overall credit load for the Oswego Honors Program and they use that number in their calculation regarding which college to attend.

Clark followed up by asking how many credits are required in other SUNY Honors Programs and the Council was provided with a hand-out showing that, without the proposed changes, Oswego would have the most requirements. Raymond reiterated that he understood the impact the proposed changes will have on the MLL Department but he also believed that the changes are in line with the spirit and core mission of the Oswego Honors Program. And he believed the changes put Oswego more in line with other SUNY Honors Programs. A former director, he said, pointed out that the high credit load of Oswego's Honors

Programs led to students in certain majors not being able to participate in the Honors Program. Chambers pointed out that the proposed Honors Program at Oswego will still require more credits than any of the Honors Programs at the research universities.

The guests then left the meeting.

Mohammadi provided some history regarding the last round of changes to the Honors Program. A lively discussion then ensued regarding the proposed changes, the history, goals and nature of Honors Programs in the United States, the purview of APC and other Councils on campus, and larger issues facing academia in the 21st century.

Chambers moved to approve and Zenor seconded. Approved.

Clark followed up the vote by stating that she will ask for a course outline for HON 250 and will distribute it to Council members. UCC has passed it already.

B) Studio Arts Update

It turns out that there was nothing that needed to be fixed. The Department was not using language that had been voted on by FA. APC does not need to act on this proposal.

V. New Business

A) Communications and Mass Communications Revisions

Zenor presented a rationale for the need for these changes and an overview of what the changes entail.

Fettes conveyed the following via email: “With regards to the changes to the Broadcasting and Mass Communications major proposed catalog copy: In the core I would remove ‘Select 1 course from each of the following areas:’, remove Media Industries, have BRC 301 OR BRC 305. Then the line ‘Select one course from’, remove Media Literacy, list the four courses.”

Clark asked if Zenor had looked for hidden prerequisites. Mohammadi stated that Jean Dufore did not find anything. Zenor also noted that half of their students are transfers so their classes are open to upper-division students.

Discussion regarding the requirement for a grade of C- or better. Russo wondered whether more departments were including this and why. Mohammadi pointed out that students who receive a C- may not repeat those courses even when receiving C- grades puts them below a 2.0 GPA.

McCune moved and Taglia seconded. Approved.

- B) Communication and Social Interaction major and minor Name Change**
Zenor stated that they are requesting the name change since it is confusing and does not align with field.

Chambers moved and Russo seconded. Approved.

- C) Vocational Education Prefix Change - announcement**
Russo notified the Council that Vocational Education had recently changed its name and will be changing the prefixes on its courses next year.

VI. Council Next Year

A) Open Seats

The terms of Russo, Zenor, Chambers and Clark are all up at the end of this academic year. McCune, Truong and Fettes will serve through 2019.

B) Meeting time and place

The new Chair will determine the time and place of the meetings.

C) Website question

Clark wondered if the website was up-to-date. Zenor stated that one set of minutes was missing. Chambers took those minutes as McCune was absent on that day. She will send those to Zenor to upload to the website.

Meeting adjourned at 4:52

Respectfully submitted,
Mary McCune